

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS

# AN EVENING OF PERCUSSION

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE



Featuring melodic percussion traditions of Africa, including works by Bongani Ndodana-Breen and Nyokabi Kariuki.

Eric Shuster, Director



**Thursday, November 17, 2022**  
**Holloway Hall Auditorium**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Salisbury**  
UNIVERSITY

Make Tomorrow Yours

# PROGRAM

## AN EVENING OF PERCUSSION

A La Nañigo (1967) ..... Mitchell Peters (1935 - 2017)

Eric Gehl, conductor

Imbila (2015)..... Bongani Ndodana-Breen (b. 1975)

Lilandra Hayes, narrator

Chris Lankford, marimba

Kpanlogo (Dance of the South).....conceived by Kakraba Lobi (d. 2007)

arr. Valerie Naranjo

Donnell Robinson, marimba

Akadinda Trio (1992).....Emmanuel Séjourné (b. 1961)

the season of Big rain (Mbura ya Njahi) (2020) .....Nyokabi Kariuki (b. 1998)

Graceful Ghost Rag (1971)..... William Bolcom (b. 1938)

arr. Terry Smith

Nhemamusasa (trad. Shona).....arr. SU Percussion Ensemble

**Africa and the World**  
Thursday, November 17, 2022  
7:30 p.m.  
Holloway Hall Auditorium

## **SALISBURY UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

### **ERIC SHUSTER, DIRECTOR**

David Bohenic

Camille Jones

Eric Gehl

Chris Lankford

Lilandra Hayes

Ryan Minton

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

In honor of the new Africana Studies Program at Salisbury University, the Salisbury University Percussion Ensemble presents the program “Africa and the World,” paying particular homage to the melodic percussion traditions of Africa. These include the East African *akadinda* and West African *gyil* (pronounced JEE-lee), ancestors to our modern *marimba*, as well as the *mbira* (thumb piano) tradition of the Shona people of Zimbabwe.

Two recent works for concert marimba carry these traditions forward and consider new possibilities in the genre. South African composer Bongani Ndodana-Breen combines traditional and modern approaches to marimba writing for his incidental music in the retelling of *Imbila*, a folktale of the Xhosa (pronounced CO-sa) people and a number of new and experimental techniques are employed on the marimba in Nyokabi Kariūki’s “the season of Big rain” (*Mbura ya Njahi*).

Kariūki, a Kenyan composer, multi-instrumentalist and sound artist seeks to create meaningful and challenging art, illuminated by a commitment to the preservation and reflection on African thought, language and stories. The Salisbury University Percussion Ensemble is excited to be commissioning Kariūki for a piece and intend to premiere her new work in spring 2023 for the Salisbury Percussion Festival.

Lastly, the program features two diasporic-influenced selections, the *Afro-Cuban rhythm inspired A La Nani* and William Bolcom’s classic *Graceful Ghost* from the ragtime revival of the 1970s.

*Program notes by Eric Shuster*

**The Salisbury University Percussion Ensemble**, directed by Eric Shuster, presents new, classic and underperformed works for percussion in the spirit of the genre’s experimental roots in 1930s and 1940s America. The ensemble, made up of music majors and non-majors, has a tradition of collaborating with faculty, students and guest artists in the creation of new pieces and has been featured at the Percussive Arts Society MD/DE Day of Percussion. In addition to their semi-annual “Evening of Percussion” programs, the ensemble co-presents an annual Friday Drums concert with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Percussion Ensemble and appears regularly for New Music Salisbury events. The ensemble was formed in 2012 to celebrate the 100th birthday of avant-garde composer and early percussion innovator John Cage.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Carolyn Ringer Lepre, *President, Salisbury University*  
Dr. Karen Olmstead, *Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs*  
Dr. Maarten Pereboom, *Dean, Fulton School of Liberal Arts*  
John Raley, *Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Colleen Clark, *Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Suzanna Mallow, *Production Director, Department of Music, Theatre & Dance*  
Brooke Church, *Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Shawn Stone, *Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*  
Information Technology, Purchasing, General Accounting,  
Copy Center, Publications, Public Relations & Event Services

---

If you would like to make a donation to support the Music Program,  
please make your check payable to the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc.,  
specifying Performing Arts Fund – Music Program in the memo line, and mail in care  
of the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. at P.O. Box 2655, Salisbury, MD 21802.

Please call 410-543-6385 for information regarding upcoming  
Department of Music, Theatre and Dance performances.  
For more information about our academic program, please visit us at  
**[www.salisbury.edu/performingarts](http://www.salisbury.edu/performingarts)**.

---

**Department of Music, Theatre and Dance**  
Fulton School of Liberal Arts  
Salisbury University | 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801  
Phone: 410-543-6385 | Fax: 410-548-3002 | Email: [cmclark@salisbury.edu](mailto:cmclark@salisbury.edu)

*This event is made possible, in part, through the generous endowment  
of the late Charles R. & Martha N. Fulton.*

**Make Tomorrow Yours**  
.....  
**[www.salisbury.edu](http://www.salisbury.edu)**

**Salisbury**  
UNIVERSITY

SU is an Equal Opportunity/AA/Title IX university and provides reasonable accommodation given sufficient notice to the University office or staff sponsoring the event or program. A copy of the current financial statement of the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. is available by writing 1308 Camden Avenue, Salisbury MD 21801 or on its website, [www.salisbury.edu/foundation](http://www.salisbury.edu/foundation). Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, 410-974-5534.